



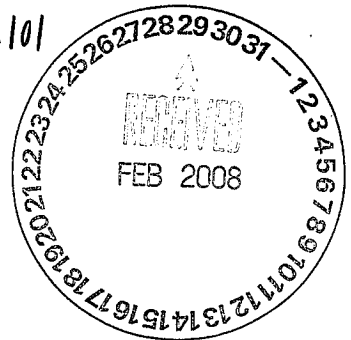
Panoramaland RC&D

Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

February 12, 2008

CLAIR BALDWIN 435.896.8965 X101

CALL 979.1984



Larry Crist, Utah Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2369 West Orton Circle
West Valley City, UT 84119

clair.baldwin@ut.wrda.gov

Dear Mr. Crist,

As you know, the Panoramaland RC&D Council, Inc. is currently working with a number of partners to coordinate efforts with private landowners to recover the Utah Prairie Dog (UPD). While the formalities of the Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement are still being finalized, we would like to provide accomplishment reports for the six cooperators who have entered into individual Safe Harbor Agreements. We plan to fully incorporate the annual reporting of these individual agreement holders with those landowners signing up under the Panoramaland Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement.

Please find attached one page summary accomplishment reports for: Allen Henrie, Mitchell Pace, Verl Bagley, Harlow Brown, Val Norman, and Tarvel Torgersen. The reports were compiled by Clair Baldwin, the Panoramaland RC&D UPD Coordinator, in collaboration with the program participants.

We are looking forward to resolving some minor issues in finalizing the Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement, and have several prospective cooperators who are prepared to sign a Cooperative Agreement under the Panoramaland Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement.

We appreciate the support that your agency has given to this effort.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Falvey
Chairman, Panoramaland RC&D Board of Directors

Cc: Environmental Defense

Val Norman
P.O. Box 440014
Koosharem, Utah 84744

Mr. Norman entered into a Safe Harbor Agreement in July of 2006, enrolling an 18 acre property south of Koosharem. The property was invaded by rabbit brush and annual invasive weeds. Historically, several acres were occupied by the Utah Prairie Dog.

The agreement with Mr. Norman was to remove the rabbit brush and seed the property to desirable perennial grasses and forbs. In addition, he was to install a hand-line sprinkling system on a portion of the property, install electric fencing, and initiate an improved livestock grazing system. Cost share funding was to be provided by USFWS under the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

In the spring and fall of 2006-2007, Mr. Norman initiated action to remove the rabbit brush and invasive weeds. Seeding was accomplished, using a seed mixture supplied by DWR and applied by Mr. Norman.

In the spring of 2007, irrigation water which was key to the planned vegetative establishment, and which had been leased to Mr. Norman became unavailable, resulting in water and the proposed sprinkling system not being available.

The moisture received on-site during the spring and summer of 2007, combined with record high temperatures, resulted in a seeding failure on this project site. Further on the ground evaluation suggests that this project will not be successful until Mr. Norman secures sufficient water rights to change the micro-climate by applying sufficient irrigation to germinate the prescribed seed mixture. If and when such water rights are secured, the project should be revisited with a ground zero start.

The presence of historical Utah Prairie Dog mounds was observed on the property during the summer and fall of 2007. No sightings of live animals were recorded.

Mr. Norman is supportive of the Safe Harbor efforts and is a positive willing cooperator. It is suggested that we continue to evaluate the potential of this project and encourage Mr. Norman to push forward with securing the necessary irrigation water to bring this project into reality.

Allen Henrie
P.O. Box 128
Panguitch, Utah 84759

Mr. Henrie, is the initial Safe Harbor participant involving conservation measures directed toward recovery efforts associated with the Utah Prairie Dog. As a rancher and a businessman, he has caught the vision of the value of wildlife on his property and the value of the incentives and the conservation measures which provide positive investments in land management efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr. Henrie signed a Safe Harbor Agreement in 2005, involving a 900 acre parcel of property located in Garfield County, approximately 8 miles west of Panguitch. This property historically contained a population of Utah Prairie Dogs, which had been eliminated. Today there are no UPD's on the property.

The agreement identified the following conservation measures to be completed:

1. Brush treatments involving mechanical and chemical treatments on selected portions of the ranch. (This treatment was accomplished in 2006 and resulted in comparative alternating strip treatments.)
2. Reseeding of the treated sites with native grasses and forbs to increase quality, quantity, and diversity. (This treatment was accomplished in 2006 on the alternating strips where "Roundup" was used.)
3. Livestock control fencing. (Cooperative efforts involving the DWR and the "Dedicated Hunter" program resulted in completion of the fencing project.)
4. Compensation for loss of AUM's during the vegetative recovery period. (Compensation has been provided for by Environmental Defense and will continue on a pro-rated basis through 2008.)
5. Improved grazing management on property.
6. Reintroduction of the UPD onto the property.

Accomplishment programmed in 2008, will be the work associated with building the artificial burrows scheduled for April, 2008, and the reintroduction of the UPD, scheduled for July, 2008. DWR will be the lead agency in the reintroduction effort.

Livestock grazing will be scheduled to resume in the spring of 2008 with the improved grazing system to be functional in 2009.

Mr. Henrie has displayed a very positive attitude toward the project and his efforts in support of the Safe Harbor Program and the associated conservation efforts have been outstanding.

Close monitoring of the improvements and the transplanted UPD's while maintaining contact with Mr. Henrie during this period of transition will be an important task for all of the involved partners.

Michell Pace
P.O. Box 280
276 North 200 East
Loa, Ut. 84747

The Pace project is located in Sevier County, north and east of Koosharem and involves approximately 17 acres of dry land pasture and 5 acres of wet meadow pasture. Planned improvements involve the removal of brush, reseeding, and water spreading system on the dry land pasture. Improvements also include boundary fencing, internal cross fencing, improved cattle grazing system, and wet meadow restoration.

The cooperator signed a 15 year agreement which included cost share funding comprised of 50 percent EQUIP and an additional 25 percent funding from USFWS to implement those practices not covered by EQUIP.

Accomplishment during 2007 consisted of:

1. Brush Removal (17 acres)
2. Seeding (17 Acres)
3. Boundary Fence Construction (East and South boundary fences totally rebuilt. West boundary fence repaired and the North boundary fence repair or construction will be contingent upon adjacent property participation.)

Planned accomplishment for 2008 will consist of:

1. Installation of an improved irrigation system (gated pipe) and establishment of the seeding.

Improvements remaining to be accomplished include: Completion of cross fencing, which will be done after the seeding is established; north side fencing which will be contingent upon neighboring property participation; wet meadow restoration will be an expected result of sediment reduction from the water spreading system; and stocking with livestock under an improved grazing management system.

Based on observations made during the summer and fall of 2007, the property is not occupied by the Utah Prairie Dog, but populations located on an adjacent property are expected to move onto the project location.

Mr. Pace has been a positive and willing cooperator who is supportive of the Safe Harbor Program.

Tarvel Torgersen
HC 80 Box 2025
Greenwich, Utah 84732

Mr. Torgersen entered into a Safe Harbor Agreement in May of 2006, enrolling approximately 215 acres of land, located in Piute County approximately two miles south of Koosharem, Utah.

The project involves 50/50 cost share participation with the EQUIP program and an additional 25 percent participation with the USFWS under the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

Specific conservation treatments and actions agreed to include:

1. One pivot sprinkler irrigation system covering 40 acres.
2. Pastureland restoration on 49 acres.
3. Rangeland seeding on approximately 25 acres.
4. Improved grazing management system on 215 acres.
5. Establishment of a 50 foot vegetative buffer around the "Direct Take Zone".
6. Chemical treatment of spot spraying rabbit brush in pastures 2&3 prior to reseeding.

Treatment measures initiated in 2007 include:

1. Installation of the pivot sprinkler irrigation system combined with tillage and planting of 40 acres to oats as a soil conditioner prior to planting to perennial grasses.
2. Initiated action to establish the 50 foot vegetative buffer. Project is approximately 40 percent complete.

Treatment proposed for accomplishment in 2008 include:

1. Use of the pivot sprinkler irrigation system in planting 40 acres to perennial grass.
2. Continue expansion of the buffer strip.
3. Spot-spray the rabbit brush in pastures 2&3 and prepare for planting.

Observations made by Mr. Torgersen and the Project Coordinator during the Summer and Fall of 2007 resulted in two burrows found and zero sightings on the enrolled property.

Verl Bagley
Greenwich, Utah 84732

Mr. Bagley is the County Extension Agent for both Wayne and Piute Counties and has been a key contact in promoting positive land management activities that are conducive to increasing and or maintaining habitat needed for the Utah Prairie Dog.

Some documentation appears to be lacking in researching the date that Mr. Bagley entered into a Safe Harbor Agreement, but the record does contain the February 2006 proposal which outlines the specifics of the project.

The enrolled property consists of approximately 60 acres, located in Piute County immediately west of Greenwich. The property is bench land and used for crop production and livestock grazing. Abandon Utah Prairie Dog burrows have been found on the property, but during the summer and fall of 2007, no sightings of live animals were made.

Conservation measures agreed to include:

1. Installation of a pivot irrigation sprinkling system on 40 acres.
2. Spot reseeding of areas in need with a seed mixture compatible with the habitat needs of the Utah Prairie Dog.
3. Livestock control fencing.
4. Reintroduction of the Utah Prairie Dog onto the property.
5. Improved livestock grazing system.

Accomplishment to date:

1. Mr. Bagley applied for and received EQUIP cost share funding to install the pivot irrigation sprinkling system. The system was installed and was operational during the summer of 2007.
2. Spot seeding of fallow areas occurred in the fall of 2007.

Expected accomplishment in 2008 will include cost share fencing and the initiation on a trial basis of the improved livestock grazing system. Reintroduction of the Utah Prairie Dog will be evaluated by DWR in 2008 and if compatible, reintroduction will occur in the summer of 2009.

With a successful reintroduction effort, this project could become a valuable demonstration area depicting the results of working cooperatively together to achieve common goals.

Harlow Brown
P.O. Box 440373
Koosharem, Utah 84744

Mr. Brown entered into a Safe Harbor Agreement on May 30, 2006, enrolling a 22 acre parcel of land located in Sevier County, Utah. The property is located approximately three miles north east of Koosharem.

Agreed upon cost shared funding from USFWS through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program resulted in the following conservation measures being identified:

1. Eight acres of rabbit brush removal, involving chemical and mechanical means.
2. Inter-seeding into areas where brush removal occurred.
3. Irrigation control to avoid flooding of existing Utah Prairie Dog burrows.
4. Improved livestock grazing to manage stubble height at a height desirable for the Utah Prairie Dog.

The brush removal was to have been completed in 2007, but due to difficulties associated with finding a working brush cutter, the time frame for project completion has been pushed forward. Currently, project planning will initiate the brush cutting phase with a follow-up chemical herbicide application in the spring of 2008.

Inter-seeding of those sites treated will also be accomplished in the spring of 2008, with follow-up on irrigation and the improved grazing system scheduled to begin in the summer of 2008.

Spring observations resulted in 6 adult Utah Prairie Dogs be counted on the property.

Mr. Brown is a willing participant in the program but only moderately supportive due to issues associated with difficulties in securing equipment to do the agreed upon work. As a result, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the local Cooperative Extension Agent have agreed to collaborate in assisting with equipment needs.